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I learned everything I know about television while making television. —*Shonda Rhimes*

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CHAPTER RECAP

A showrunner is the person who has overall creative authority and management responsibility for an entire television series. Getting the scripts written, making decisions for production, authorizing the final edit, and being the face of the TV series all sits on the shoulders of the showrunner.

Despite many of the business and administrative responsibilities that come with being a showrunner, your core task remains the same: telling a great story, episode-by-episode.

There's no real way of learning to be a showrunner unless you get the actual job. However, there are a lot of ways you can learn from the principles of being an effective showrunner that you can apply in your everyday life: negotiation, time management, communication, and learning how to work with people in positions of authority.

TAKE IT FURTHER

- ▶ Become familiar with Shondaland executive producer Betsy Beers. Listen to an episode of her podcast, *Shondaland: Revealed* [here](#).
- ▶ Read *Showrunners: The Art of Running a TV Show*, which includes interviews with several successful showrunners.
- ▶ VIDEO: [Watch](#) *The Hollywood Reporter* showrunners roundtable.

SUBCHAPTERS

- ▶ Communicate Honestly
- ▶ Treat Studios as Your Creative Partners
- ▶ Delegate and Empower
- ▶ Manage Your Time Carefully
- ▶ Write Quickly
- ▶ Make Opportunities for Others
- ▶ Shonda's Journey as a Showrunner

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